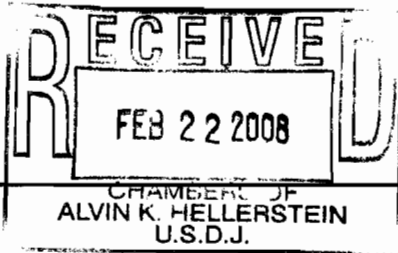
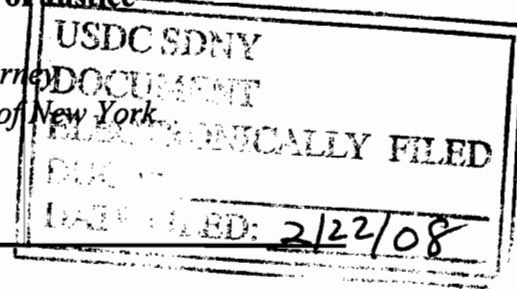


U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney
Southern District of New York



86 Chambers Street
New York, New York 10007

February 21, 2008

By Hand

Honorable Alvin K. Hellerstein
United States District Judge
United States Courthouse
500 Pearl Street, Room 1050
New York, New York 10007

Re: Garney Crews v. Astrue
07 Civ. 6374 (AKH)

Dear Judge Hellerstein:

This Office represents the Commissioner of Social Security, defendant in the above-referenced action. The parties are exploring settlement of plaintiff's petition for attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA") that was filed on February 6, 2008. Therefore, with consent of plaintiff, I respectfully request an extension of two weeks from today, until March 6, 2008, to respond to the EAJA petition.

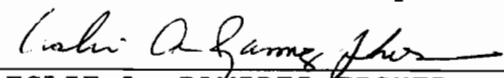
This is defendant's first request for an extension on the EAJA petition.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL J. GARCIA
United States Attorney

By:


LESLIE A. RAMIREZ-FISHER
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Telephone: (212) 637-0378
Fax: (212) 637-2750

cc: Carol Goldstein, Esq. (by fax)

*So ordered
2-22-08
[Signature]*